

BEFORE
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF
SOUTH CAROLINA

DOCKET NO. 93-445-C - ORDER NO. 95-1473 ✓

AUGUST 25, 1995

IN RE: Request for Extended Area Service (EAS)) ORDER
 Between the Communities of Graniteville,) DENYING
 South Carolina and Augusta, Georgia.) EAS REQUEST

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the Commission) by way of a request filed requesting toll-free service (also known as Extended Area Service or EAS) between the communities of Graniteville, South Carolina and Augusta, Georgia. The affected telephone utility is Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company (Southern Bell). Upon receipt of the request for EAS, the Commission instructed the Commission Staff to require Southern Bell to perform community of interest and cost studies.

Southern Bell duly filed its community of interest and cost studies with the Commission concerning the request. The cost studies indicated that in order to provide the proposed EAS, that Graniteville subscribers, both residential and business, would incur an additional monthly adder of \$9.52. The adder would only affect the Graniteville subscribers because the regulatory authorities in Georgia require the smaller exchange to bear the full cost of the provision of EAS where there appears to be little

interest in calling from the larger exchange.

The Commission then instructed the Staff to poll the residents of the area affected by the proposed EAS. From the Graniteville calling area, the Commission received 1843 ballots, of which 1,260, or 69%, opposed the EAS and 583, or 31%, favored the EAS.

Based on the results of the poll of the Graniteville subscribers, it appears to the Commission that the majority of customers responding to the poll do not desire the EAS with the additional monthly adder. Based on those results, the Commission herein denies the EAS request.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:


Chairman

ATTEST:


Executive Director

(SEAL)